

OCEANIC OWNER SCORES SCHWERIN FOR FIGHTING NEW SEAMEN'S ACT

Rudolph Spreckels Declares Pacific Mail Manager Actuated By Selfish Greed

Charging that R. P. Schwerin, general manager of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, in pleading for the repeal of the La Follette Seamen's Act, is deliberately misrepresenting conditions to the public, and that he receives a princely salary at the expense of labor employed under his management, Rudolph Spreckels, one of the Spreckels brothers, has prepared for publication a scathing indictment of the Pacific Mail's attitude. The article is an answer to Schwerin's attack on the bill.

Rudolph Spreckels is reputed to be the chief stockholder in the Oceanic Steamship Company, and is a brother of John D. Spreckels, now in the Hawaiian Islands. He declares that the Pacific Mail, if complying with the Seamen's Act, would still earn more than \$4,000,000 a year, based on its earnings in 1914 and 1913 with Oriental crews employed. Mr. Spreckels' article says:

"Contract labor and slavery on our shore are forbidden by law and yet we tolerate a condition of servitude upon the high sea which, if generally understood, would make the people of America ashamed. Under present treaties and maritime practice the sailor-man is obliged to ship for a round trip voyage. If, in his opinion, wrong conditions prevail on shipboard, or finding an opportunity for bettering his lot, a seaman leaves his ship's employ in any foreign port before completing the voyage, he may be arrested, imprisoned and forced to return to the ship and continue the voyage.

End Slavery on Seas.

"That so-called civilized nations lend themselves to such inhuman practices passes understanding. It is to the credit of this nation that its enlightened statesmen have taken the first steps to end slavery on the sea. There is a bill to promote the welfare of American seamen in the merchant marine of the United States.

"Selfish men representing ship owners are now exerting every effort to defeat that worthy measure. One such individual has circulated a pamphlet which reeks with that disregard for human rights so common to capitalist greed. He pleads for a continuation of the present system because, under the proposed new law, his steamship company would be obliged to give up employing Oriental crews on its American steamers.

"In order that the danger to passengers traveling on ships manned by Chinese crews and offered by white men may be fully appreciated, the following language is quoted from a decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals, Ninth District, May 2nd, No. 1035, 130 Federal Reporter, in re Pacific Mail Steamship Company:

"There can, in our opinion, be no doubt that the crew of a ship must be not only sufficient in number, but also competent for the duties it may be called upon to perform. The case shows that the City of Rio de Janeiro left the port of Honolulu on the voyage, under consideration with a crew of 84 Chinamen, offered by white men. The officers could not speak the language of the Chinese, and but two of the latter, the boatswain and the chief fireman, could understand that of the officers.

"Consequently, the orders of the officers had to be communicated either through the boatswain or chief fireman, or by signals and signs. So far as appears, that seems to have worked well enough on the voyage in question, until the ship came to grief, and there arose the necessity for quick and energetic action in the darkness in that emergency, the crew was wholly inefficient and incompetent as the

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sad results proved. The boats were in separate places on the ship. The sailors could not understand the language in which orders of the officers in command of the respective boats had to be given.

"It was too dark for them to see signs (if signs could have been intelligently given), and only one of the two Chinese who spoke English appears to have known anything about lowering a boat and there had been no drill of the crew in the matter of lowering them. Under such circumstances, it is not surprising but that three of the boats were lowered, one of which was successfully lowered by the efforts of Officer Coughlan and the ship's carpenter, another of which was swamped by one of the Chinese as the ship went down.

"We have no hesitation in holding that the ship was insufficiently manned, for the reason that the sailors were unable to understand and execute the orders made imperative by the exigency that unhappily arose, and resulted so disastrously to life, as well as to property."

"Loss of 131 human lives in the accident referred to in the above case seems of no consequence to the man who pleads with Congress for a repeal of the Seamen's Bill.

Takes Up Wage Scale.

"The company pays these Orientals, according to his statement, from \$7.50 to \$9 per month wages and feeds them at a cost of only 13 cents a day. White crews would cost from \$40 to \$50 a month in wages and 55 cents a day to feed, according to the gentleman's statement, which statement I am reliably informed is an exaggeration.

"The difference in cost in operating five steamers of that company is given by the same authority as \$367,316.64 per annum for Oriental crews and \$803,810.40 for white crews—an increase of \$436,493.76 per annum. Those figures, taken by themselves, would be staggering to the average man, but fortunately the gentleman gives us the gross earnings of his company, which were \$5,585,728.64 for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1913, and \$5,556,130.96 for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1914.

"In other words, the per centum cost of labor is 6.599 per cent of the gross earnings for Oriental crews and under the European standard of wages and food only 14.441 per cent of the company's gross earnings.

"With the Oriental crew cost deducted from gross earnings, the company would still have \$5,198,814.22 left to meet its other expenses and return dividends upon capital invested; with the white crew cost deducted from gross earnings would still have \$4,762,321.56 left to meet other expenses and return dividends upon capital invested. Labor, then, is but a small part of the cost of operating steamers, and human rights and justice demand that men should receive at least a fair share of what they help produce.

"The gentleman who preaches so eloquently for cash dividends for his company at the expense of labor employed under his management, himself receives a princely salary. More efficient and conscientious management and better treatment of employees might produce several times more money for that steamship company than the apparent saving made by employing cheap Oriental labor.

Would Cut High Salaries.

"Careful investigation of the company's affairs might disclose how savings could be made that would warrant the company hiring white men at a living wage without loss of net earnings. Less politics, a cut in the high salary roll and in other extravagant expenditures might easily save for that company far more than the possible increase to be paid to white crews under the Seamen's Bill.

"Congress is continually asked to protect capital and its methods of high finance. Protection and opportunity to continue earnings upon their watered securities while human beings starve are demanded by men who know not hunger and want. Let not the spark of human kindness die in America.

"We must not tolerate a continuation of commercial greed and the placing of dollars above human rights and needs. Europe is demonstrating today the inevitable result of the policy of commercial greed leads to. The toll in money and in human life now being paid at the altar of governmental submission to the demands of capitalism should be a warning that no intelligent American can afford to ignore.

"My writings may shock the members of my so-called class, but my belief in them is still sufficiently strong to warrant in hoping that if they will but take a step outside the blinding influence of their selfish environment, a new light will dawn upon them and then there will be hope that the United States of America may go forward and forever live in accord with the intention, purpose and mandate of this nation's founders."

Mellow moonlight and good roads will be two features of the first cross country run of the Honolulu Automobile Club, which is to be made next Saturday night from the city to Haleiwa. A supper will be served at the hotel at Haleiwa at 6:30 o'clock. On the way out the motorists will witness the afternoon racing at Schofield.

The department of labor announces that foreigners who seek citizenship and then join the old world armies will be rejected when their cases come up for final hearing.

Stephen Haight of Jersey City went swimming in Newark bay and when 300 feet off shore was seized with cramps and drowned before companions could reach him.

TRY MURINE EYE REMEDY
For Red, Weak, Watery Eyes and GRANULATED EYELIDS
Murine Doesn't Smart—Soothes Eye Pain

COMMITTEE OF 15 TACKLES JOB; OUT AFTER FACTS

(Continued from page one)

gation," said W. F. Frear, "must deal largely with the companies themselves. We cannot get cut and make detailed investigations through the people, we must get the facts of the companies to convince them of something which they already know exists." Others believed that the companies themselves realize that passenger congestion does exist, and are of the opinion that the companies would be glad to furnish the exact data on the matter. It was at this stage of the discussion that the motion was made by Mr. Castle for the appointment of a committee to secure data from the companies.

Take Up Freight, Too.

The original motion by Mr. Castle was to secure data on passenger conditions only, but on suggestions, this was amended to take up freight conditions also, the same committee to handle both divisions of traffic.

Little consideration was given to the question of assuring tonnage to the Great Northern, which boat is thought to be available for at least a trial service between Honolulu and the coast.

Mr. Castle stated that he thought the boat could be profitably run here providing 300 passengers could be secured for each trip. Some changes, he said, would have to be made in the boat, to enable it to make the run, but these changes would be slight.

Mr. McInerney thought the Great Northern too large a steamer to make the run. He was rather of the opinion that the solution rested with the Matsun company. "I do not wish to dictate the business interests of the Matsun company," said Mr. McInerney, but it seems to me that they might profitably sell the Lurline and build another Matsun.

Mr. McInerney did not find anyone else who agreed with him on that idea, and a good many thought the plan not feasible in the least.

Value of Tourist Trade.

D. L. Withington called attention to the fact that tourist travel is a valuable asset to a community, and that it is always known to build up a city. He cited the instances of the city of San Diego, which had sprung from a city of 3500 people to one of 100,000.

"I do not advocate tourist travel as the greatest thing," said Mr. Withington, "but I do say that it should be looked after carefully."

Several other members spoke on different phases of the general question, and then the motion by Mr. Castle was put to a vote and carried. Mr. Peck appointed the committee and Mr.

DEADLY BULLETS FLY AS DANCERS STEP TO MUSIC

Spaniard Hiding in Hawaii Cane Fields, Fired Into Hall After Killing Portuguese

(Special Star-Bulletin Correspondence)

HILO, Hawaii, Aug. 23.—Francisco Mollers, alleged murderer, who has threatened to shoot the captain of police and the deputy sheriff of the Kau district should they attempt to capture him, is still at large and is believed to be hiding in the cane fields in the district.

Mollers, who is a Spaniard, recently shot and killed a Portuguese named Pedro, a watchman at a plantation camp in Kau. Pedro intervened in a family row and was cut badly with a knife wielded by Mollers. After telephoning to the manager of the camp, Pedro returned to the scene of the trouble. Mollers shot the Portuguese through the heart.

Took Shots at Dancers.

After shooting the watchman the murderer walked over to another house where a dance was going on and, declaring that his party had just as much right to make a noise by singing as the others had by dancing, fired three shots through the walls of the dwelling. Luckily nobody was hurt although several persons had very narrow escapes. One bullet went through the hip pocket of a young fellow who was dancing. A clean hole was cut through his pants, but he was not injured.

It was some time afterwards that Capt. of Police Kekaula arrived on the scene. The first news he received was that Pedro was killed and that the murderer was somewhere around the camp armed with a repeating rifle.

Kekaula got his revolver out and began to prow around the camp. He was informed that Mollers was somewhere near a house occupied by a family of Portuguese, and that evidently he was waiting to get a clean shot at the policeman. Mollers had announced his intention of killing Kekaula on sight.

The police officer noticed that about half way between the house he was

Castle stated that it would hold a meeting in five minutes. The committee of 15 then adjourned.

Those present this morning were L. Tenny Peck, F. C. Atherton, E. A. Berndt, A. L. Castle, W. F. Frear, C. E. Hemenway, E. J. Lowrey, F. W. Macfarlane, W. H. McInerney, George W. Smith, Harry L. Strange and D. L. Withington. Raymond C. Brown was elected secretary of the committee.

standing alongside of and the house where it was thought the murderer was lurking, there was a chicken coop and clump of banana trees. The captain saw the importance of the cover and he maneuvered so that he could make his way to the spot without being seen, as he thought, by the gunman.

Crawled to Chicken House.

After considerable crawling and wriggling along the ground, Captain Kekaula reached the chicken house and immediately drew himself to his feet. He had hardly done so than a shot rang out and the police officer felt a splash of something on his hand in which he held his revolver. He thought at first that he was wounded, but had enough sense to throw himself on the ground just as a second bullet whizzed past him. In trying to get to his feet once more he grasped one of the banana trees and he at once felt a hole from which the sap was flowing rapidly. He then realized that the first bullet from the murderer's rifle had gone through the soft banana tree, and the dampness he felt on his hand had been some of the sap of the tree.

Kekaula then thought it about time to take a hand in the shooting competition himself, so he let fly a couple of bullets in the direction from which the rifle shots had come. An instant reply came when three shots rang out in rapid succession. That meant a retreat for the police officer and he did a zig-zag run for the cover afforded by some houses.

Murderer Flees.

The murderer then disappeared in the night and the whole camp and countryside sat up and prayed for daylight. In the early morning more police arrived, and a little later on Sheriff Pua put in an appearance from Hilo. A council of war was held and it was decided to send out all the available police, armed to the teeth and on horseback, to try and get some trace of the murderer.

The sheriff's theory is that the man must try and get food somewhere, although he may subsist for a short time on wild guavas and sugar cane. Still, it would seem to be inevitable that the man will try and get in touch with some of his countrymen and obtain assistance from them. Watch has been set on all the roads that lead to the other parts of the island, and instant word will be sent to the police should a suspicious character be seen making his way out of the Kau district.

Warden Osborne has accepted an offer of the United Garment Workers to send volunteers to Sing Sing to point out the defects in the clothing shops.

Loretta Boyle, 20 years old, a primary grade teacher in the Dobbs Ferry public school, swam eight miles in the Hudson river in 2 hours and 20 minutes.

Mark Goodbred, 20, and James Rockefeller, 16, were drowned in Mohawk river near Fort Plain, N. Y. They were seized with cramps while swimming.

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3 x 30	\$2.60	4 x 36	\$4.60
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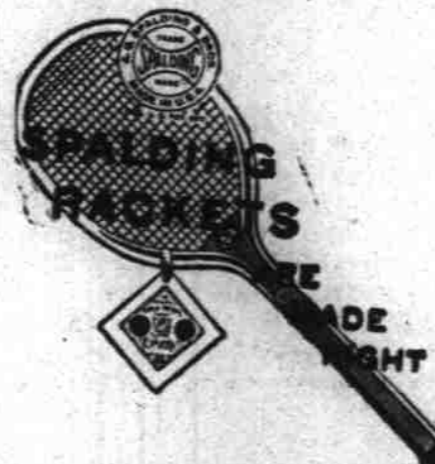


Pint Thermos Flasks, \$1 to \$3.50. Quart Thermos Flasks, \$2.25 to \$4.50. Quart Thermos Carafes, \$4 to \$10. Half-pint Thermos Jars, \$2.50. Pint Thermos Jars, \$2.50. Quart Thermos Jars, \$3.50.

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50c All-steel Claw Hammer for 30c

Three different sizes. Shouldn't be sold at a reduction, but we have too many. For the Carpenter, or for the Home, the purchase of one of these Hammers on Monday or Tuesday will mean money well spent. (Hardware Dept.)

Special Monday and

Aluminum Strainers marked down for two days.

Ordinarily sold for 55c, but as a "Special" they'll go for 35c.

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50c the bottle.

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